

Timber Lakes...

8-5-92

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was an event that drew visitors to the county, and to Timber Lakes, 55 cars per hour entered the front gate.

Wasatch County Fire Chief Jerry Davis said embers can jump fire breaks and roads as wide as 30 feet wide.

But, because a fire would be unpredictable, and people caught in the area could become disoriented, even though they might know the escape routes, Sheriff Mike Spanos thought the solution is to just designate safe areas where they could congregate until they could be led out.

"It's law enforcement's responsibility to be up there and actually direct [people out]; to find the best way to get people out of there, depending on the location of the fire. We have communications. We have the command center...If we had a fire up there, I think we would almost have to establish which exit is going to be the safe way out. I don't think when there is, and if there is a fire up there, that it's going to engulf all of Timber Lakes. There's going to be a way out.

"If we respond as quickly as we've been responding, and get our equipment there, we're going to direct people who are not familiar with the area, and get them out. That's going to be our primary responsibility," said Spanos. He said first responders could arrive in about ten minutes.

He said it is impossible to predict how to keep everybody safe in every situation, but there definitely needs to be another exit, that heads in a different direction from the ex-

isting roads.

Farrell said the county-approved plan for Timber Lakes calls for three roads out, that are always open and maintained. He agreed there should be at least one exit out of the top of the subdivision, which would head north to Lake Creek Rd., but the two-mile road would have to cross private property. Cummings said the property owners are very concerned about security, which would be jeopardized if roads across their land had to be kept open.

County Attorney Steve Hansen said it would be up to the homeowners association to work out an access agreement with the private property owners, and the county has no jurisdiction in the matter. But, he said, "During the fire season, security ought to take a back seat to safety. All adjoining property owners, of private property surrounding Timber Lakes, should be contacted. There should be a request to open free access...at least for the next six weeks."

Breeze said the roads would need to be graded, and asked who would pay the costs. Hansen responded that the next step should be to determine who should be responsible for making all the escape roads passable.

Spanos said it's already hard to keep trespassers and vandals off the private property without opening up more roads. Cummings suggested installing crash gates on those roads, which Spanos said would help.

The people at the meeting agreed to form a fire exit committee that would tour the subdivision and in-

ventory the roads, immediately, and put together some recommendations for an emergency plan. Commission Chairman Moroni Besendorfer emphasized that this is a dry year and an escape plan, with several options, must be put in place immediately.

In the meantime, the homeowners said they would place signs pointing to the exits along all roads. Wallberg said signs marking the exits themselves should be different from the directional signs, so they would be easily recognized. He said he would clear brush from along the sides of the roads.

Cummings agreed to remove the metal gate identified as a safety hazard, but hedged when Farrell tried to get him to take responsibility for maintaining the exits across his property, at least so that Wallberg would be satisfied that they would be passable with a two-wheel drive vehicle.

"We'll do the best we can...I'm not agreeing to go up there and spend a lot of money to maintain those private roads through that property...We grade those roads every year, and I've already graded those roads this year," said Cummings.

Spanos said he didn't think the solution would be to try to make every road passable for the lowest, two-wheel drive car, because it isn't possible to control every problem that could arise during an emergency. He said Cummings and the homeowners should agree to an acceptable standard.

The group was stymied about what to do about a locked metal gate on a main exit that could be

taking out any more vegetation than necessary, and the county is concerned about how much is graded because of the effect on the environment, erosion and stream pollution. He suggested that Cummings and the homeowners association work together to identify the collector roads with the heaviest traffic, and those that will only serve a few cabins. He suggested that they make recommendations for the commission to review and determine whether or not to modify the code to permit roads narrower than 26 feet.

Cummings recalled that the county agreed last Fall that all roads in the county should not have to meet the same standards and that the ordinance must be flexible so that each road could be built according to demand and use. He said he couldn't believe Timber Lakes property owners wanted to destroy the mountain with a 26-foot-wide road that would be used by just a few vehicles. He said he and property owners presented a joint recommendation last Fall for different road widths based on use. He added that he thought he had done a good job on the roads he had built so far.

But a member of the homeowners association board of directors, Jim Poulson, said, "As each plat was developed, there was a plan put forward for a given road width. Then, either through non-attention, or whatever the cause, we have roads in that area now that are somewhat less than 12 feet wide. There's no way on God's earth that can meet the fire code. Somewhere, somehow, we've got meet the obli-



A Wrangler

Monday, Aug. 10: Chicken thigh, potatoes and gravy, roll and butter, vegetable, salad, brownies, and milk.
Tuesday, Aug. 11: Alpine burger, potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll and butter, apple cobler, and milk.
Wednesday, Aug. 12: Ham, au gratin potatoes, roll and butter, whole kernel corn, salad, banana pudding, and milk.

Senior Citizens' Ne

Mr. Smith made his greatest contributions to the community when he served on the Heber City Council and was able to obtain federal funding to build the Heber City Airport back in 1948. It continues to serve the valley well.
 One of his accomplishments, while serving as county commissioner, was to obtain federal funding to include a swimming pool in what is now the Wasatch Middle School in Heber City to provide swimming facilities for the community.
 As president of the Wasatch Chamber of Commerce, he worked with many agencies and legislators to help establish Wasatch Mountain State Park.
 He was appointed to the county hospital board which elected him

man, Wasatch County Commissioner, Heber City Council member, LDS educator and bishop, Harold H. Smith was chosen as the Wasatch County Fair Days Parade Grand Marshal for 1992.
 Mr. Smith came to Heber City during Fair Days in 1941 and saw the parade, not thinking that some 51 years he would be returning to it for his many accomplishments, as Grand Marshal for the 1992 Fair Days Parade.
 Mr. Smith had received an assignment from the LDS Church education system to teach seminary in Heber City. He purchased a home and his wife, Mabel and infant daughter, Dorine, joined him later that year. While they were in Heber City, four more children were born to them, Hal, Claudia, Annette, and Marian Jane. He laughed at

used for evacuation, but it crosses a gravel pit owned by Cummings. He said he had a lot of problems with trespassers and they already have twisted it like a pretzel. He said if he installed a wood crash gate, he'd have to replace it every week.

On the subject of road widths, county code calls for 26-foot widths, with four-foot shoulders, but the state fire code will allow a minimum of 21 feet. Farrell said the approved plan for the developing the rest of the Timber Lakes subdivision specifies 26-foot-wide gravel roads.

Cummings had wanted to build roads as narrow as 18 feet, has agreed to a minimum of 21 feet, but doesn't want to have to build all the roads 26 feet wide.

His attorney, Jim Smedley, said they had asked the planning commission to study the terrain, traffic, and curves, as well as safety, and determine what would be a reasonable width. He said Mathis was reluctant to accept the proposal, but agreed the 26-foot width might be excessive in some cases, even though it would be ideal. He said Mathis agreed to hire an engineer to conduct a study and make a recommendation.

Farrell reported the engineer's report was inconclusive but recommended Utah Department of Transportation standards, which is "quite restrictive. As a result of that, there were some protests by local engineers and developers. As a result of the protest, I think the issue died."

He said that may have led Cummings to believe there might be some consideration given to narrower roads, "but there never was." He emphasized that nothing less than 26-foot-widths was ever approved for the three plats still to be developed.

gations of the code, irrespective of what our feelings are about it. The code is there for a purpose and it has to be met, or you'll have a million 'what ifs'."

Hansen recommended that the county, public works department, fire department, homeowners and developer agree to certain widths for each road and make recommendations to the planning commission for an amendment to the code. Commissioner Pete Coleman said the county engineer and sheriff's office also should be involved.

But Smedley pointed out that any amendment would have to apply to all subdivisions, not just address Timber Lakes questions. He suggested an amendment that would authorize the planning commission to determine which roads would have to be 26 feet wide, and which could be only 21 feet wide.

Breeze reminded them that the deadline for building the roads being discussed is Sept. 1, which is an one-year extension of the original deadline. Farrell said that doesn't allow enough time for the process required to enact an amendment, if that's what the commission wants to do.

He said he would call a meeting of the people named, and the county planner, to make recommendations to the planning commission. But what to do about the deadline was not settled.

Wasatch

Friday
 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Pioneer CD pl
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